

A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

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The Music Man

This year's Westgate musical, *The Music Man*, follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a children's band he vows to organize—this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plan to skip town with the cash is foiled when he falls for Marian the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall. ●



Middle East Tour

Following our Mar Elias exchange back in February, a large group of senior high students enjoyed the opportunity to visit Israel/Palestine this past spring. Here are a few reflections from our students:

We had the opportunity to visit one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Petra in Wadi Musa, Jordan. When you walk into Petra, there are rocks higher than a building over your head, with all kinds of beautiful mineral colours. Unfortunately, this beauty was tainted by the overwhelming smell of camel and horse pee. Karina's girls—Erika, Jasmin and Lydia and I—were determined to conquer a hike one day. We were already exhausted from a long week of hiking the Jesus Trail and finding the willpower to hike yet another day was trying for us. After a breakfast of boiled eggs, hummus and a tomato, we made our way. We climbed up to a monastery that was built thousands of years ago by the original Bedouins and I can only call it "remarkable." After admiring the monastery, there were a number of trails labelled "best view in the world" and we had to decide which best view in the world we wanted to see. Once at the top, I remember smelling dry air and desert flowers and hearing the faint sounds of Arabic music. Looking around, you could see sand for miles. But



most importantly, I saw these wonderful friends around me. I can thank God every day for giving me the opportunity to grow even closer to my best friends I've had since Grade 7.

On the way down, we were approached by little Bedouin kids. I have never met anyone



more eager to know my name and to give us directions. Some people had the opportunity to play with the children and some were helped by the Bedouins in a time of need. This was amazing because even though we are from two completely countries, speak different languages and probably different religions, they were gracious enough to help out some confused tourists. That's how I saw the face of God in the people of Petra.

(Danika Hummelt '16)



The immense power of experiencing the numerous spiritual places of the Middle East took me by surprise. I definitely did not expect to feel such a connection to places like the Garden Tomb and the Mount of Beatitudes, while also facing the many faith confusions and questions that are a part of world travel. Through the process of participating in spiritual actions, such as placing prayers in the Western Wall and actively walking the path that Jesus took to his crucifixion, I was able to get a deeper understanding of important biblical moments.

Yet as I walked the streets of Jerusalem on our final days of the trip, a seed of doubt and confusion remained in my mind. We had just visited the Church of the Holy

Sepulchre that morning where many Christians believe Jesus was crucified. Now we were approaching the Garden Tomb, another site where this vital biblical act is said to have taken place. My head was spinning with questions and confusion about how there could be two sites for the same event within a 15-minute walk of each other: why couldn't we Christians just make up our minds?

We walked around the Garden Tomb for some time, taking in the significance of this place and reflecting on our experiences until this point. I sat down as confusion continued to cloud my mind, and my eyes suddenly rested upon a sign above my head. It read, "He is not here, for He is risen." This worn wooden sign was the answer to my numerous questions. I came to realize that the physical place in which Jesus died didn't matter to me. As Christians we are called to have faith in God, and perhaps this small confusion was God's way of showing the insignificance of the physical place. I believe this realization is vital to our whole experience in the Middle East. God was with us as we climbed numerous desert mountains in Petra and walked the lush path between Nazareth and Capernaum. The discovery that God surrounds us at all times is a prominent message that I will continue to hold onto. **(Rebekah Johnson '15)** ●





Jennifer Shultz, Kelly Reidiger and James Friesen

U of Manitoba Teacher Awards

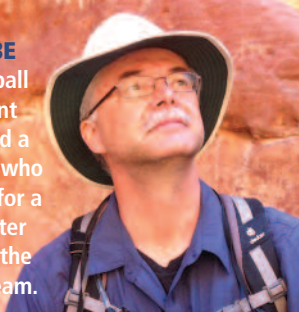
Westgate was able to bask in celebration at The Students' Teacher Recognition Reception that followed the 2015 Outstanding Teacher Award for Law on May 13, 2015. Kelly Riediger ('06) was one of 18 graduating University of Manitoba students who paid tribute to educators who had made an impact on their lives and learning. Each year an outstanding student from each faculty is chosen and that student nominates two teachers, one from K-12 and one from University. Robson Hall's outstanding student, Kelly, nominated her high school English teacher James Friesen and Professor Jennifer Schulz ('88). Westgate teachers have received this recognition before but this is believed to be the first time that the honoured university educator is one of the school's alumni.

Kelly presented a short speech at the reception, citing that Mr. Friesen's class

"was an opportunity to tackle books most adults wouldn't think of picking up, let alone a 17-year-old! We powered through novels like *Crime and Punishment* and *Heart of Darkness*, books that would have been intimidating if it weren't for Mr. Friesen's encouragement and explanations of the particularly confusing sections, which were many. Thank you Mr. Friesen for always treating us students as equals, making classes enjoyable and for inspiring me to immerse myself in reading and challenge myself in the process."

With regards to Dr. Schulz, Kelly noted that, "She was funny and engaging and because of her use of the terrifying Socratic Method, I read more religiously for Torts than any other class and certainly learned more as a result. It was a class that students truly didn't want to miss, a rare thing in law school. In addition to being an incredible teacher, Professor Schulz is also an inspirational woman and a true role model. She is all those 3 S's so many of us want to be: smart, strong and successful. And more than that, she is genuinely interested in students. Thank you Professor Schulz for being an example of the kind of woman I want to be when I grow up." ●

Once again, former Coach of the Year **KARL WIEBE** has been honoured for his contribution to basketball coaching in Manitoba. Karl was this year's recipient of the Mike Spack Award. This award is considered a lifetime achievement award, recognizing coaches who have served the Manitoba basketball community for a long time with distinction. The award is named after Mike Spack, the only person in Manitoba to be in the Hall of Fame as an athlete, a builder and with a team.



JAYME MENZIES, our Varsity Girls volleyball coach, was recently awarded the Mary Jean England Coach of the Year Award by the Manitoba Volleyball Association for her work during the club season with the Dynamo 16U Girls team. This award recognizes the Developmental Coach of the Year. Jayme shared the award with her co-coach, Ryan Munt.

WESTGATE
11TH ANNUAL
ALUMNI & FRIENDS
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

Bridges Golf Course
Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Registration at 9:30 a.m.
 Tee off at 11:00 a.m.
 Adult: \$175 • Student: \$150
 Golf registration fee includes:
 registration package, green fees,
 golf cart, lunch, dinner and prizes.

*All proceeds to support Westgate's
 Capital Campaign: Creating inspiring
 spaces for learning and leadership.*

*With summer fast approaching, we invite
 you to the 11th Annual Westgate Alumni and
 Friends Golf Tournament. Perhaps you
 have attended the tournament in the past.
 Fabulous! Or maybe you are new to the
 Westgate community and would love to spend
 a day with friends at Bridges. See you there!*

LEONA HIEBERT'S RETIREMENT

Leona Hiebert is looking forward to some well-earned rest, relaxation and retirement after 35 years of faithful service as the Keeper of Student Records for Westgate. Leona joined us in 1980. 1980! It was three years before her eldest son entered Grade 7 at Westgate and eight years before the

old mansion came down. Back then our phones had two buttons—On/Off. If you'd seen anyone with a Walkman, they'd have been among the very first to own one. This was before Xerox copies, before fax machines and computers—long

before even the Commodore 64. Her IBM Selectric typewriter might have been considered state-of-the-art in office technology. Leona has dealt with and adapted to all those changes and at the same time has had to train six principals, four vice principals and survive seven changes at the receptionist / administrative assistant's desk. In her time with us, Leona has moved from young mom to proud grandma.

And in all that time, student records were accurately, meticulously maintained. Attendance recorded, letters sent, Department of Education forms completed and submitted. Report cards proof read—typed, checked and copied. All kinds of work we depended on always done. Correctly. On time. We cannot count the number of times we counted on Leona's corporate memory of all things Westgate, and of course, the number of times she forgave us for forgetting. Evidently Leona chose to see only the best, not only in her students but in her colleagues as well.

So, after June, if you need a transcript, who you gonna call? Someone else. Leona's gone camping, and she's not coming back! ●



Family Studies

There is no such thing as a stress-free family. All families have experiences and transitions that are challenging—even joyful events like a wedding or a new baby can be stressful. The Grade 9 Family Studies class has been studying social, economic, and emotional issues surrounding family life.

If we believe TV commercials, we might think that family life is just one blissful day after another. The families portrayed in

commercials have spotless houses, parents breaking into song while they prepare dinner together for their well-behaved children, and enjoy stress-free holidays where their entire luggage, beach toys, and the Golden Retriever fit perfectly in the back of their brand new SUV. Anyone who accepts these unrealistic expectations of family life as true is sure to be disappointed.

Kristine Kasdorf (wife to Dennis Kasdorf '93) came to visit our Family Studies course to share how the birth of their fourth baby has brought its joys and challenges. Life changes when a demanding little baby comes on the scene and makes his/her presence known at every hour of the day and night. It was great for the students to hear how Kristine and Dennis make a family work. ●



PRIVATE MUSIC RECITAL

We were thrilled to have about 50 Westgate private music students perform in a year-end recital on May 14. There were solos, duets, trios and even large ensembles, each showcasing the impressive musical skills acquired from our dedicated music teachers. From Bach to Pachelbel to Under the Sea, we heard a great cross section of music. Bravo to all the performers and teachers!



Winter Camping

A group of hardcore hikers challenged themselves with a trip to Mantario Lake this winter. Despite some cold weather, the students and staff endured a day-long hike to reach the Naturalist Society cabin. Some students were in tears by the time they arrived, exhausted from the trek and arriving as the sun went down. The trip back was much easier, knowing what was in store and having packed down the trail. Hikers felt they had accomplished something significant after this event. ●



Westgate's four Ultimate teams had a strong showing again this year. Our Grade 8 team finished 3rd in the top division, while our Grade 7 won all their tier 2 games to advance into tier 1—quite an accomplishment for rookies!

Our Senior B team consisted mostly of Grade 9 and 10 students but despite their youth, they competed well, finishing the tournament with a strong win. Our Senior A team was again a championship contender, pushing the defending champion SJR team to a universe point in a hard-fought semi-final. Both teams were understandably too exhausted to compete at their best in the gold and bronze medal games. Congratulations to all our players and coaches on another successful season.

Student News



KATY ENS ('16) – winner of the Manitoba Association of Playwrights High School Playwriting Contest.

Every year, Mrs. Martin sends in plays from the English 30S class. The plays chosen for submission fit the specific criteria given for the contest and this year, Katy Ens' play was chosen. Katy's play, *Special*, is a touching portrayal of one girl's school experience and her coping mechanisms to get through the difficulties she faces. It was directed by Megan McArton, a longtime fixture in the Winnipeg theatre community. Katy's play was performed as one of five finalists for the Manitoba High School Playwriting contest on May 28th and May 29th at the Tom Hendry MTC Warehouse Theatre. The audience voted for the top play, which was awarded the cash prize. Last year, Westgate student Richelle Burchill was also a winner.



The first AAA Junior Varsity Provincial basketball championships took place this year and our girls were a part of it. As Zone Champions, our team felt prepared going into the event, but lost to the eventual champions (U of W Collegiate) in the semi-finals. But, they were able to rebound and capture the bronze medal. Special recognition goes to **NATALYA REIMER ('18)** and **OLIVIA LUNNY ('17)**, who were named Tournament All Stars.

The Manitoba Basketball Association recognized three Westgate Graduating All Stars for their performance this past season: **JON PANKRATZ, HILLARY REMPEL** and **HANNAH ENNS**.



Hannah was also selected to the A, AA, AAA All Manitoba 2nd team and, a first for a female Westgate basketball player,

listed in the Winnipeg Sun Top 10 players as an honourable mention. Hannah is planning to play basketball at the University of Winnipeg next academic year. Congratulations!

And speaking of Hillary, she was also recognized as a Graduating All Star for her contributions to the Ultimate field. The Manitoba Organization of Disc Sports (MODS) recognized Hillary and teammate **LIAM SAWATZKY** for their fine play this season.



Congratulations to **NICK NIEBUHR** and **CHRISTINA THANISCH-SMITH** on receiving Desautels Faculty of Music Entrance Scholarships. In addition to this, Christina received a Rainbow Stage performance scholarship. Nick was also one of six Leadership of Tomorrow scholarship winners, an award worth \$16,000.



Grade 12 French students **KATE GREEN** and **JACKSON BROWN** challenged and successfully passed the DELF level B2 examination this past May. This certification by the Government of France allows these students to directly apply to university in France. In Manitoba, a B2 certificate represents ability to the equivalent of grade 12 French immersion.

Both Kate and Jackson indicated that this was "a major personal achievement," and a "validation of working at French their whole lives."

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MICHELLE SCHMITZ just finished her Bachelor's degree in Hannover, Germany, in November, but decided that she would love to spend some time in a Canadian school before entering her Master's degree program in Education. She graced our school from the end of November to the end of March and was a great asset! She engaged fully in our community: marking, teaching a Grade 7 German class, chaperoning a field trip and organizing costumes for the One Act Plays. After surviving a Winnipeg winter, Michelle had to fly home to Germany. She will be missed!



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Once again, Westgate was well represented at the Manitoba German Language contest in February. Congratulations to all competitors, especially the following winners in their respective categories:

Junior C

1. Paul Rempel
2. Juliana Moroz
3. Alexandra Grislis

Intermediate B

3. Jaymi Fast

Intermediate C

2. Sarah Stelmack
3. Jon Brownell

Senior C

1. Lara Penner-Goeke
2. Sam Haight
3. Christina Thanisch-Smith



Congratulations to the following alumni for earning medals at the University of Winnipeg (from the left):

Matthew Thiessen ('10)
Gold Medal for Achievement in a Major (4-year)
Biochemistry and Biology,
Silver Medal for the Second Highest Standing in Science (4-year)

Justin Wiebe ('12)
Gold Medal for Highest Average in Sociology (3-year)

Kate Niebuhr ('11)
Gold Medal for Achievement in a Major (3-year) Women's and Gender Studies

Signe Penner-Goeke ('12)
Gold Medal Achievement in Religious Studies (3-year)

Cory Funk ('08)
Gold Medal for Achievement in a Major – History



SENIOR BAND WORKSHOP The Senior Band students had a busy, but productive, day of music-making on Monday, January 26 from 9 am until 8 pm. Players of each instrument had a professional musician and teacher working with them in sectionals, family (brass and percussion/woodwind) sectionals and full band rehearsals. Learning like this is priceless, and a real treat for all students.

We were delighted to welcome Rob Monson from Glenlawn Collegiate as our guest conductor for the day. His insight, humour and analogies for the music helped take us to whole new levels of performance.

We again teamed up with the University Women's Club and all sectionals took place at Ralph Connor House. What a lovely venue for music making! Many students commented on how appropriate it was to play in such a classy setting.

Our last exciting addition was local artists, The Dirty Catfish Brass Band. They came to Westgate and performed a really lively set while we ate dinner. It was a treat to have these top performers play for us and offer much inspiration for our young performers.

Alumni News



Congratulations to **JULIAN KROEKER ('10)** and **NAOMI NEUFELD** on their wedding that took place on Sat, Feb. 21, 2015. The wedding party, consisting of many Westgate alumni, took advantage of their Westgate connection and used our bus to transport everyone on the wedding day.



Congratulations to **ROB WINTER ('92)** and **SHERRI GIBBING** on the safe arrival of their son, Charles Ellis (8 lbs, 6 oz), on March 3, 2015.



JANAIYA WIEBE ('09) graduated from University of Manitoba in 2013 with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies and proceeded to Stirling, Scotland, where she graduated with an Accelerated Graduate

LLB from the University of Stirling in May 2015. Her focus was International Law, while serving as the VP Fundraising of the Stirling University Law Society and playing Straight Defence on the Ladies Lacrosse team. Well done, Janaiya!



NATALIE RIEDIGER ('02) was the recipient of the Governor General's Gold Medal. She completed her PhD in Community Health Sciences in the College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. Her research is in the area of diabetes and cardiovascular epidemiology in the First Nations population. She is pictured here with her husband **THOMAS DYCK ('99)**, and the boys (Matthew, two-and-a-half years, and Jacob, four months) at convocation. When Thomas isn't running after the boys, he looks after running a business – A.L.T. Closets.



VIRGINIA GERBRANDT ('99) was married to **ANDREW RICHERT** last summer on July 19, 2014, at the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona. She has been working as assistant pastor there since 2011, and Andrew works as a cutting room supervisor at Blue Sky Opportunities.



University of Winnipeg student **ALLISON BAERGEN ('12)** was recently awarded the Tom Kendall Award. As such, she was also recognized as one of 26 Academic All-Canadians for the 2013-2014 academic year. Congratulations Allison!



HEIDI WARKENTIN ('97 AND STAFF) and **DOUG REDFERN** were married on July 11, 2014. And ... on April 24, 2015, they welcomed a son, Douglas Dietrich Redfern, to the world. May God bless your new relationship and adventure as parents.



Congratulations to **BRANDON KOSACK ('05)** and **STACEY UNTERSCHULTZ** on their wedding that took place on October 14, 2014. Notice classmates Joey Clefstad and Mark Hummelt on the far right.

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